

Press Release

Office of Mayor Chuck Reed

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Contact:
Michelle McGurk, PIO
Office of Mayor Chuck Reed
(408) 535-4840 or (408) 655-7332 cell

Mayor Chuck Reed Issues Budget Message that Saves Libraries and Community Centers, Provides for Public Safety

SAN JOSE – Mayor Chuck Reed this evening released his 2010 June budget message, proposing to save vital libraries, community centers, and public safety services while closing a \$118 million budget gap.

“Over the past few months, I’ve met with hundreds of San José residents to get their input and ideas for solving San José’s budget crisis,” Mayor Reed said. “Whether I was in Alviso or Almaden, Mayfair or Willow Glen, residents told me the same thing: First, save our libraries and community centers. Kids and families depend on these services. Second, keep our neighborhoods safe. Don’t layoff police officers and firefighters. That’s exactly what my budget proposes to do.”

Mayor Reed’s budget message proposes to:

- keep branch libraries open 39 hours per week,
- keep open the six satellite community centers scheduled to close June 30,
- keep other community centers at existing service levels,
- avoid layoffs of police officers and firefighters.

The Mayor’s proposed budget balances a \$118 million shortfall through a combination of on-going and one-time new revenues, transfers from other funds, use of ending fund balance and reserves, liquidating and renegotiating contracts, cuts in services, and reductions in pay and benefits for employees. Employee concessions are key to closing the budget shortfall. “The \$118 million shortfall is the worst in San José’s history,” Mayor Reed said. “We’ve been cutting services and trimming the fat for the last decade. This year, if everybody shares the pain, we can save services and jobs.”

On June 15, the City Council will consider imposing the terms of its last, best, and final offers on at least four of the six employee groups with open contracts. Those concessions, totaling \$7.5 million in general fund savings, will save library hours and community centers that were slated for closure under the City Manager’s proposed budget and other vital services. Additionally, Mayor Reed’s budget proposal commits that any savings from concessions from the San José police and fire unions be used to avoid laying off police officers and firefighters.

Mayor Reed’s Budget Message, issued on Friday, June 4, will be open for public comment at the City Council’s final Public Hearing on the Budget on Monday, June 14 at 7 p.m. It will then go before the City Council for approval on Tuesday, June 15 at the 1:30 p.m. Council meeting.

The Mayor’s budget message can be read online at:
http://www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/Agenda/20100615/20100615_0312.pdf.